SHARE:

Join Our Email List

IFATCA CIRCULAR

November 2026

Not showing correctly? Click here to view the circular as a webpage

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Greetings from an autumnal Netherlands, where the days are shortening and the end of the calendar year is rapidly approaching. As many of you prepare for upcoming year-end holidays and busy operational periods, I wish all our members and their families well.

October was a particularly active month for IFATCA. I had the honour of visiting the Americas region, where ATC Chile hosted an outstanding regional meeting in Santiago. Engaging directly with our Member Associations across the globe remains one of the greatest privileges of serving on the Executive Board. I extend my sincere thanks to our Chilean colleagues for their warm hospitality.

The month also saw successful regional meetings in Türkiye (EUR), Japan (ASP), and Jordan (AFM). I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Greg Okeroa, as EVP-elect for the Asia Pacific region, ahead of his term starting in April. Greg is a widely respected figure within the Federation and will be a valuable addition to the Executive Board when he takes over from Cheryl Chen. We are also delighted that Ahmad Abba has been re-elected to his role as EVP Africa Middle-East.

On the technical front, October marked the formal establishment of the global Advanced Automation and Artificial Intelligence Task Force (AAAITF). The Task Force will hold its inaugural virtual meeting on 23 November, and we look forward to sharing updates on their progress leading up to the Annual Conference. In addition, a budget proposal for the newly established Task Force will be presented to the Directors for consideration.

A personal note, this will be my final opportunity to address you in the Circular before my term concludes. As many of you are aware, I will not be seeking re-election as Executive Vice President Technical (EVPT) at the Annual Conference in Istanbul this coming April. Serving on the Executive Board over the past three and a half years has been a tremendous privilege. I remain fully committed to making the most of these final five months, to ensure a smooth transition and a strong finish to our current work programme.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Istanbul.

Benjamin Van Der Sanden
EVP Technical

2026 IFATCA Regional Meetings



Our regional meetings kicked off with the Americas, hosted by Chile from October 6–8. Europe followed from October 13–15 in Türkiye, then Asia Pacific gathered in Japan from October 20–22, and finally, Africa and the Middle East came together in Jordan from October 26–28.

These regional meetings provide a valuable opportunity to reconnect with colleagues across our regions, focus on shared regional priorities and challenges, strengthen existing relationships, and build new friendships. Most importantly, they bring us together, fostering a stronger sense of connection, collaboration, and community across our global network. **READ MORE HERE**

IFATCA Competency-Based Training & Assessment (CBTA) Workshop



On 23–24 October 2026, IFATCA and its Japanese Member Association, the Japan Federation of Air Traffic Controllers (JFATC), co-hosted a Competency-Based Training and Assessment (CBTA) Workshop in Tokyo, Japan.

The workshop brought together approximately 30 participants from across the Asia-Pacific Region and was facilitated by IFATCA Deputy President Jean-François Lepage (Canada), Renz Bulseco (Philippines) and Mehdi Roohi (Iran).

CBTA represents a significant shift in how air traffic controllers are trained and assessed. Its value lies in four key areas.

First, by defining detailed observable behaviours tailored to each unit, CBTA gives instructors clear and objective guidance on how to prepare training and how to evaluate trainee performance.

Second, it provides a rational framework for instructors to draw on when guiding the training process, helping assessments rest on evidence rather than emotional reactions.

Third, it sets out clear expectations and defined stages of progress, so trainees know what is required of them and can reflect on their own development.

Finally, CBTA is not a fixed system: it can be adapted, and should be reviewed regularly, as the operational environment and conditions of each unit evolve.

This was the second CBTA workshop held in the Asia-Pacific Region, following last year's workshop co-hosted with Hong Kong International Aviation Academy and Hong Kong Air Traffic Controller Assocition. Both workshops received 100% positive feedback from attendees.

Member Associations interested in hosting a CBTA workshop are encouraged to get in touch with their Regional Executive Vice President.

IFATCA Positive Safety Culture Training



On 29–30 October 2026, IFATCA, in partnership with ATOM Aviation Training Services, hosted a Positive Safety Culture Training for the Africa and Middle East

(AFM) Region. The training brought together delegates from across the region and was facilitated by Mr. Ibrahim Saifeddin Alhazaimeh.

A positive safety culture represents a fundamental pillar in how air traffic control organizations operate and manage risk. Its value lies in encouraging open, non-punitive reporting so operational hazards are identified proactively, providing a supportive framework where safety assessments rely on systemic data rather than blame, and setting clear expectations for continuous learning and trust so personnel can take active ownership of safety outcomes as operational environments evolve.
Appreciation was also extended in absentia to the outgoing Regional Vice President of the IFATCA AFM Western Region, Mr. Francis Armah-Mensah, for his visionary support and leadership.

International Day of the Controller

Serbia Air Traffic Controller Association (SRBATCA)



The Serbia Air Traffic Controllers Association (SRBATCA) opened a new exhibition and ATC museum in Belgrade airport on international day of the Controller 2026. Philippe Domogala was invited as co-author of the 100 Years ATC book to the opening. The event was attended by approximately 150 guests, mostly active and retired local Controllers plus some VIPs from their ANSP, Airlines, etc..

The ATC museum exhibition was extremely well done, very professionally built, with interactive films, videos, etc.. Philippe made a presentation on the 100 Years ATC

book.

The exhibition showed the complex history of ATC in Yugoslavia and later Serbia with lots of equipment and documents on display. It is one of a kind and really worth visiting. To visit it one needs to contact SRBATCA, as the museum is located in their ANSP HQ building, near the passenger terminals of Belgrade airport. (For more details on the Museum itself see the article on pages 58-59 of the last issue of The Controller Magazine)

Polish Air Traffic Controllers Association (POLATCA)

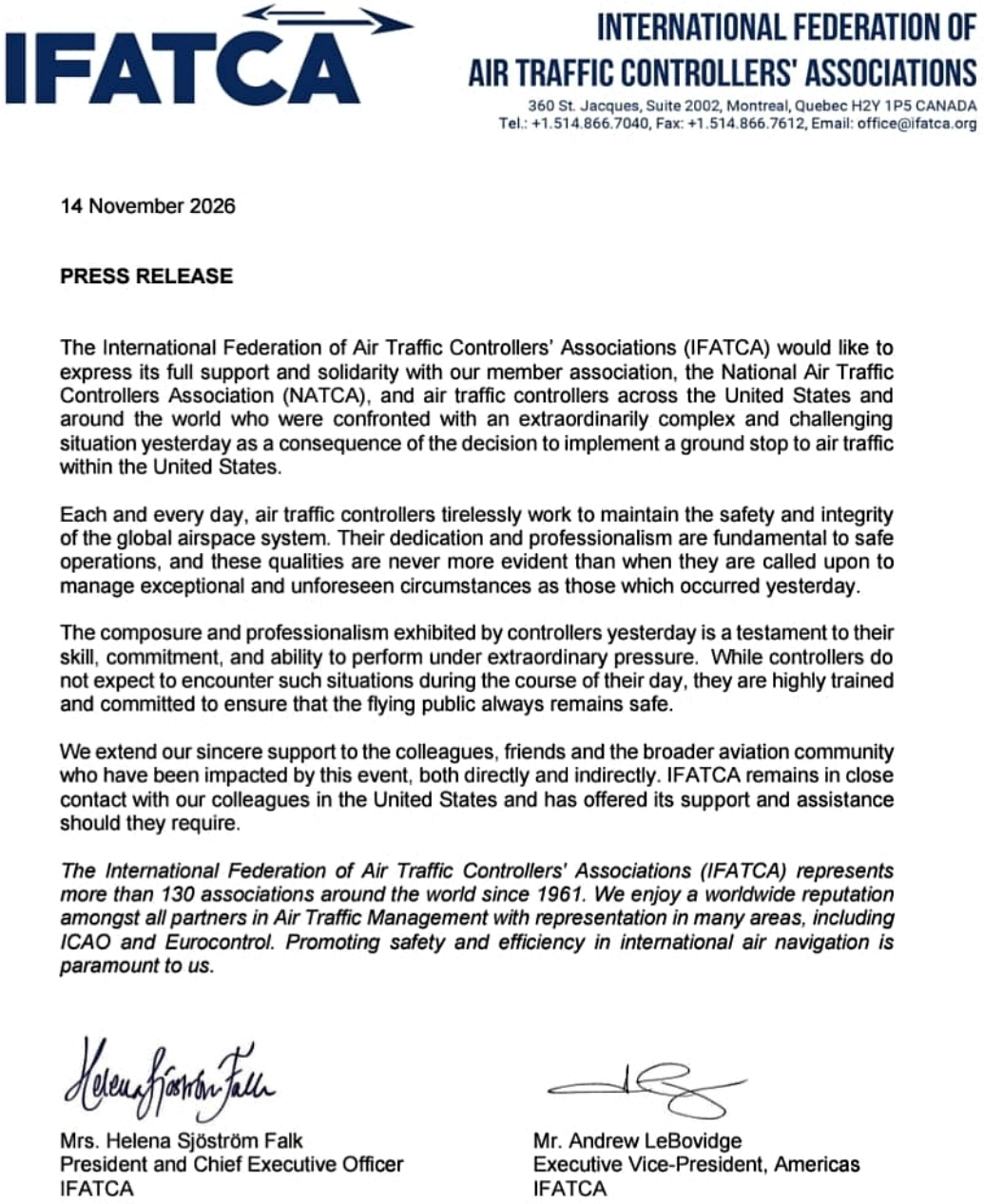


International Day of the Controller POLATCA Style

This was the third year of the POLATCA runway run to celebrate the International Day of the Controller aviation style!!! Warsaw Chopin Airport (EPWA) in 2024, Warsaw Modlin Airport (EPMO) in 2025 and this year in Mińsk Mazowiecki Military Air Base (EPMM).

Did you do something exciting for International Day of the Controller? Please share with us!

IFATCA Statement of Support for NATCA USA



IFATCA

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

360 St. Jacques, Suite 2002, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1P5 CANADA
Tel.: +1.514.866.7040, Fax: +1.514.866.7612, Email: office@ifatca.org

14 November 2026

PRESS RELEASE

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) would like to express its full support and solidarity with our member association, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), and air traffic controllers across the United States and around the world who were confronted with an extraordinarily complex and challenging situation yesterday as a consequence of the decision to implement a ground stop to air traffic within the United States.

Each and every day, air traffic controllers tirelessly work to maintain the safety and integrity of the global airspace system. Their dedication and professionalism are fundamental to safe operations, and these qualities are never more evident than when they are called upon to manage exceptional and unforeseen circumstances as those which occurred yesterday.

The composure and professionalism exhibited by controllers yesterday is a testament to their skill, commitment, and ability to perform under extraordinary pressure. While controllers do not expect to encounter such situations during the course of their day, they are highly trained and committed to ensure that the flying public always remains safe.

We extend our sincere support to the colleagues, friends and the broader aviation community who have been impacted by this event, both directly and indirectly. IFATCA remains in close contact with our colleagues in the United States and has offered its support and assistance should they require.

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) represents more than 130 associations around the world since 1961. We enjoy a worldwide reputation amongst all partners in Air Traffic Management with representation in many areas, including ICAO and Eurocontrol. Promoting safety and efficiency in international air navigation is paramount to us.

Mrs. Helena Sjöström Falk
President and Chief Executive Officer
IFATCA

Mr. Andrew LeBovidge
Executive Vice-President, Americas
IFATCA

- More than 60 Years of Professional Involvement -
IFATCA has been representing air traffic controllers since 1961 in over 130 countries.

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) would like to express its full support and solidarity with our member association, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA USA), and air traffic controllers

across the United States and around the world who were confronted with an extraordinarily complex and challenging situation yesterday as a consequence of the decision to implement a ground stop to air traffic within the United States.

Each and every day, air traffic controllers tirelessly work to maintain the safety and integrity of the global airspace system. Their dedication and professionalism are fundamental to safe operations, and these qualities are never more evident than when they are called upon to manage exceptional and unforeseen circumstances as those which occurred yesterday.

The composure and professionalism exhibited by controllers yesterday is a testament to their skill, commitment, and ability to perform under extraordinary pressure. While controllers do not expect to encounter such situations during the course of their day, they are highly trained and committed to ensure that the flying public always remains safe.

We extend our sincere support to the colleagues, friends and the broader aviation community who have been impacted by this event, both directly and indirectly. IFATCA remains in close contact with our colleagues in the United States and has offered its support and assistance should they require.

Occupational Safety & Health(OSH) Survey



IFATCA is currently conducting a survey to assess Member Associations' understanding of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), the resources and support currently available to them, and the key issues and challenges they consider most important to their working environment.

The findings of this survey will help inform the development of a Working Paper, which has been assigned to PLC for presentation at the 2027 IFATCA Conference in Istanbul.

The results will also support IFATCA in determining the most appropriate next steps, whether through the development of policies, guidance material, information papers, or other initiatives that address the needs and priorities identified by Member Associations through this survey.

Only one response per member association is needed

The survey will close on **November 30, 2026**.

Thank you for your participation and your continued commitment and co-operation to building a safer working environment for the global air traffic control community.

Survey Link

SESAR ZENITIA Project



SESAR Zero-Emission Next-Gen Innovation and Technology Integration for Aviation (ZENITIA) Project.

This project is designed to accelerate Climate-Neutral Aviation Through Advanced Airspace and Fleet Integration and is funded under the Horizon Europe SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking framework. It will develop science- and evidence-based methods to understand how next-generation aircraft and fuels can be integrated safely, efficiently, and with the greatest achievable environmental benefit across Europe's air transport system.

Coordinated by the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M), this initiative brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of leading universities, industry partners, and IFATCA as the voice of air traffic controllers, to help Europe prepare its skies for cleaner and more sustainable flights.

IFATCA at Africa-Indian Ocean Aviation System and Planning Implementation Group (AASPG)/2



During the 2nd Meeting of the Africa–Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG/2) in Livingstone, Zambia, IFATCA actively contributed to key operational discussions:

The Executive Vice President for the IFATCA Africa and Middle East Region, Mr. Ahmad Abba, presented a Paper titled "GNSS Vulnerabilities and Operational Resilience in Air Traffic Management". Originally prepared as a Working Paper, it received high commendation from the Meeting Chair, Mrs. Paule Avomo Assoumou Koki (Director General of Cameroon CAA), who urged delegates to take note of and implement its core recommendations.

The IFATCA AFM Regional Vice President for Southern Africa, Mr. Allan Manema, presented a Working Paper on the "Next Generation of Aviation Professionals – Future ATCO Workforce", highlighting the need to assess the impact of automation and AI on the role of ATCOs including the need to review the required skills and competencies. The paper also emphasised the need to have a human centric approach to Automation and AI integration in ATM.

Obituary Abu El-Soud El-Karimi

the First EVP AFM



Abu El-Soud El-Karimi sadly passed away late September 2026. He was a controller from Cairo, Egypt since 1969, holding ratings in tower, ACC procedural, radar and supervisor. He was also a former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Air Traffic Controllers Club, our IFATCA MA.

He was first elected in 1987 to become the IFATCA Regional Vice President for Africa West. Abu El-Soud remained in this position until 1990 when he was elected to become the first EVP AFM under the new EB reorganization. He organized the first AFM Regional meeting in his home town in Cairo in December 1990. He remained EVP AFM until 1995. In 1996 he received the IFATCA EB award to thank him for his long contribution to IFATCA in the Region.

Abu El-Soud was a quiet person and will be remembered as a true gentleman who kept a professional and neutral position in a very volatile environment, dealing well with many conflicts between states in his region during that period.

Historical note: IFATCA had 3 regions covering Africa and Middle East until 1990, Africa West, Africa East and Middle East. in 1990 they were reorganised into the present day Africa Middle East region.

IFATCA @ ICAO

Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM)



, Air traffic management experts from around the world came together at the recent ICAO Air Navigation World - Air Traffic Flow Management event to explore upcoming changes to standards and recommended practices, procedures and guidance for air traffic flow management (ATFM). Kenrick C. Taylor, Australia attended the event on behalf of IFATCA, and he presented the perspective of air traffic controllers in two information sessions on sector capacity and an interactive session exploring what makes for good ATFM. He also moderated an information session on the final day regarding advanced air mobility and its relationship to ATFM principles.

The IFATCA TOC and PLC are developing new policy and guidance which will support States and ATS authorities implementing ATFM. This work will be presented at the upcoming IFATCA 2027 Annual Conference, to be held in Istanbul 12-16 April 2027.

Instrument Flight Procedures Panel (IFPP)



IFATCA participation in the ICAO Instrument Flight Procedures Panel (IFPP/18-2) – Montréal, Canada | 26–30 October 2026

The ICAO Instrument Flight Procedures Panel's 18th cycle (IFPP/18-2), was held at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal, Canada. IFATCA was represented by John Langa Tembo, Zambia.

The meeting brought together aviation experts from around the world to discuss developments in instrument flight procedure design, with a shared commitment to enhancing aviation safety, operational efficiency, and global harmonization.

Participation in such technical forums provides a valuable opportunity to contribute operational air traffic management expertise and exchange professional perspectives on matters shaping the future of international aviation.

Language Proficiency Requirements Implementation (LPRI) Task Force 49th Meeting



The ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements Implementation Task Force held their three day meeting (11-13 November, 2026) in Istanbul, Türkiye. The IFATCA representative on this Task Force is Natasha Mijat Krstevska, North Macedonia. She made a presentation on IFATCA's activities regarding Aviation English highlighting the IFATCA Speak English Program, language articles in the Controller Magazine, the CBTA workshop during Asia Pacific Regional Meeting, and placing the highest emphasis on the empiric data from the Language Proficiency Survey IFATCA conducted last month. We are glad to participate on this Task Force providing frontline information from 640 ATCOS from around the world that participated actively in the survey.

The meeting was both productive and insightful, providing excellent opportunities for technical collaboration, knowledge sharing, and professional networking.

Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP)



The ICAO Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP) Working Group 7 (WG7), which focuses on the Air Traffic Control Officer (ATCO) licensing and training frameworks, held a workshop in Dublin, Ireland, from September 28 to October 2, 2026. Ausra Straume, Latvia, represented IFATCA on the panel.

The PTLP is tasked with updating ICAO Annex 1 (Personnel Licensing) and PANS-TRG (Doc 9868).

Its core mission revolves around shifting legacy requirements toward modern, global standards.

Work group 7 this time worked on aligning Doc 10056 (Manual on Air Traffic Controller based Training and Assessment) with proposals of amendments to Annex1 and PAN-TRG dealt in previous working groups and panel meetings.

New IFATCA Industry Partner



IFATCA is delighted to welcome new Industry Partner Chinney Alliance Engineering Limited

Chinney Alliance Engineering Limited delivers CNS systems integration across Hong Kong and Macau airports, alongside 24/7 operational and maintenance (O&M) support for the Hong Kong ATC environment. Their certified specialists are committed to services such as inspections, preventive servicing, and fault rectification across VHF ground-to-air communications, navigation aids (ILS, DVOR/DME), and surveillance sensors (ADS-B, MLAT, radar). Through continuous sustainment, they ensure maximum system availability and compliance with ICAO standards and ANSP regulatory requirements.

Visit their Website

Stay in Touch with IFATCA



Please Sign up:

Circular

The Controller

IFATCA Spotlight Podcast

The **IFATCA Spotlight** Podcast is made by ATCOs for ATCOs and provides insight into different challenges and solutions ATCOS face worldwide.

In this new episode of the IFATCA Spotlight podcast, Entry Point North managing director Anne-Kathrine Jensen joins our host Thorsten Raue. They reflect on the organization's 20-year journey from a Scandinavian air traffic

control training startup to a global provider. Anne-Kathrine sketches how the company started, its expansion, its move toward AI-supported and competency-based training, and why objective assessment and student confidence matter for aviation safety.

Check out all episodes via **podcast.ifatca.org** or in your favourite podcast app.



THE CONTROLLER
Journal of Air Traffic Control

-=>*The Controller* Archive <=-

The Controller magazine's archive is now available on the IFATCA website. The archive contains all issues from the past six decades. In addition, we have started working on a searchable index of all articles ever published. As you can imagine, this is a massive task: the index currently holds just over 3,000 entries. Clicking on the page number takes you directly to the article. For the moment, the index can be found **here**. There is no link yet in the website menus as we are still tweaking this feature. Some information (e.g. on who authored an article) is also missing at the moment.

Feedback, including any mistakes or missing articles, is welcome via webmaster@ifatca.org.

How did you like this Circular?

IFATCA | 360 Rue Saint-Jacques Suite 2002 | Montréal, QC H2Y 1P5 CA

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!